

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Original)

1 A finish on a hollow plastic preform or container having an integral body, said
2 finish including:
3 a neck integrally molded with said body, said neck being circumferentially
4 expanded subsequent to molding and being at least partially crystallized subsequent to
5 expansion, and
6 a finish ring externally secured to said neck subsequent to crystallizing said
7 neck, said finish ring having at least one external thread or bead for securement of a
8 closure.

4. (Original)

1 The finish set forth in claim 3 wherein said finish ring is externally secured to
2 said neck by interference fit, adhesive or welding.

5. (Original)

1 The finish set forth in claim 3 wherein said finish ring is of a different plastic
2 material construction from said neck.

6. (Original)

1 A method of making a finish on a hollow plastic preform or container, which
2 includes the steps of:
3 (a) providing a molded plastic neck that is at least partially of crystallizable
4 polymer construction,
5 (b) circumferentially expanding said neck,
6 (c) at least partially crystallizing said neck after expansion in said step (b),
7 and
8 (d) securing a finish ring externally over said neck subsequent to said step
9 (c).

7. (Original)

1 The method set forth in claim 6 wherein said finish ring is externally secured
2 to said neck by interference fit, adhesive or welding.

8. (Original)

1 The method set forth in claim 6 wherein said plastic finish ring is of a different
2 material construction from said neck.

9. (Original)

1 A method of making a plastic container having a body and a finish with at
2 least one external thread, which includes the steps of:
3 (a) providing a plastic preform having a body and a neck,
4 (b) blow molding said body of said preform to form the body of the
5 container,
6 (c) either prior to or subsequent to said step (b), expanding said preform
7 neck,
8 (d) at least partially crystallizing said neck subsequent to said step (c),
9 (e) providing a plastic finish ring having at least one external thread, and
10 (f) securing said finish ring to an external surface of said neck after
11 expansion of said neck in said step (c), and either prior to or subsequent to said step (b).

10. (Original)

1 A method of making a preform assembly for blow molding a container, which
2 includes the steps of:
3 (a) providing a molded plastic preform having a body and a cylindrical
4 neck with an external surface,
5 (b) expanding said preform neck,
6 (c) at least partially crystallizing said neck subsequent to said step (b),
7 (d) providing a molded plastic finish ring, and
8 (e) securing said finish ring to the external surface of the preform neck
9 after expansion in said step (b) and crystallization in said step (c).